

Serial No. 10/808,753, filed 3/25/04

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are presently pending in the application. Claim 16 is withdrawn. Applicant acknowledges the election made on September 21, 2005. Claims 1 and 16 are in independent form. New claims 17 and 18 have been added by this amendment.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under §102(b) over Smith '663. Claims 1, 7 and 15 were rejected under §102(e) over Smith '894.

The "bar" in Smith '663 is actually a rod of a shock absorber. In column 4, lines 38-40 and column 5, lines 15-17 the rod is disclosed as having a uniform diameter along its entire length. The Figures also illustrate this feature. Accordingly, Smith '663 cannot meet the language of claim 1 that requires forming a thickened portion on a surface relative to another portion of the bar.

Smith '894 discloses thermal spray on an inner diameter of a stabilizer bar. The thermal spray is heated after a forming operation to fuse-weld the inner surface of the bar to itself after it has been plastically deformed. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that an exterior surface of the bar is thermally sprayed. Accordingly, Smith '894 cannot meet this limitation.

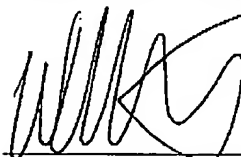
Claims 2-6 and 8-14 were rejected under §103 over Smith in view of Ohno. The Examiner did not specify which Smith reference is being used to make the rejection so that Applicant cannot fully reply. Moreover, the rejection is moot in view the arguments above and the amendment to claim 1. Nonetheless, the rejection is improper. The Examiner appears to be equating the coating step in Ohno to a thermal spraying step. The coating step in Ohno is a rust treatment and in no way relates to thermal spraying as used in either Smith reference. There is no motivation to one of ordinary skill to adopt a processing sequence such as Ohno and apply it

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to thermal spraying. Moreover, there is no motivation to order the steps in the particular  
sequence claimed.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If any fees or extensions  
of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

3/15/06